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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 DRC-01 IO-14 ACDA-19 /129 W
---------- 065881
R 151525Z FEB 74
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1537
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 0925

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, JO, IS
SUBJ: DIAPPEARANCE OF "EL FAJR" PUBLISHER

REF: JERUSALEM 242 JERUSALEM A-06

1. MRS AFAF AJLOUNY, AMCIT SISTER OF MISSING EL FAJR PUBLISHER YOUSEF NASRI NASR, CALLED ON DCM AND CONCSUL GENERAL FEB 15 TO REQUEST THAT EMBASSY INTERVENE WITH GOI AUTHORITIES IN ORDER TO PROD THEM TO GREATER EFFORTS TO FIND HER MISSING BROTHER. SHE HAD CONTACTED EMBASSY PREVOUS DAY AFTER HAVING BEEN ADVISED BY CONGRESSMAN WYDLER OF NY TO BRING MATTER TO EMBASSY'S ATTENTION.

2. MRS AJLOUNY ACCUSED HEBRON MAYOR JA'ABARI OF BEING BEHIND HER BROTHER'S DISAPPEARANCE BECAUSE OF FEUD BETWEEN TWO MEN AND STATED THAT DURING CALL ON JA'ABARI FEB 13, HE HAD INTIMATED THAT HE HAD KNOWLEDGE OF NASR'S DISAPPEARANCE. MRS AJLOUNY WENT ON TO SAY THAT SHE FEARED FOR HER BROTHER'S LIFE AND WAS AFRAID THAT IF HE DID NOT TURN UP BY FEB 16, HE WOULD EITHER BE MURDERED BY JA'ABARI FOLLOWERS OR WOULD BE SPIRITED ACROSS JORDAN-ISRAEL BORDER AND DELIVERED TO GOJ.

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3. MRS AJLOUNY ALLEGED THAT GOI KNEW WHERE HER BROTHER WAS,

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BUT BECAUSE OF CLOSE RELATIONSHIP JA'ABARI HAS WITH DEFMIN DAYAN, GOI WAS NOT MAKING EFFORT TO LOCATE HER BROTHER. SHE SAID THAT SHE HAD SO FAR REFRAINED FROM MAKING PUBLIC ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THOSE SHE BELIEVED RESPONSIBLE FOR HER BROTHER'S DISAPPEARANCE, AS WELL AS AGAINST GOI FOR ITS INACTION, BUT THAT IF HER BROTHER DID NOT APPEAR BY FEB 16, SHE WOULD CALL PRESS CONFERENCE AND PUT BLAME ON JA'ABARI AND ACCUSE GOI OF DOING NOTHING TO FIND HIM.

4. EMBOFFS SAID THAT WE HAD BEEN FOLLOWING ACCOUNTS OF CASE AND NOTED THAT IT APPEARED TO US GOI WAS MAKING EFFORTS TO FIND NASR. WE DREW MRS AJLOUNY'S ATTAENTION TO REPORT APPEARING IN TODAY'S PRESS THAT JERUSALEM POLICE HAD SET UP SPECIAL TEAM TO FOLLOW UP ON THEIR PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION OF NASR'S DISAPPEARANCE. MRS AJLOUNY HAD NOT SEEN REPORT BUT WAS SKEPTICAL THAT POLICE WERE MAKING REAL EFFORT. AS TO WHAT EMBASSY COULD DO, EMBOFFS SAID THAT MEANS AT OUR DISPOSAL WERE LIMITED BUT THAT WE WOULD BRING MRS AJLOUNY'S CONCERN TO MFA'S ATTENTION. THIS SEEMED TO SOMEWHAT PLACATE HER.

5. DCM SUBSEQUENTLY CALLED DIRECTOR OF NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION (DAFNI) AT MFA AND, NOTING THAT MRS AJLOUNY WAS AMCIT, PASSED ALONG WHAT SHE HAD TOLD US. DAFIN STATED THAT HE WOULD RELAY INFORMATION TO APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES. HE CALLED BACK LATER TO SAY HE HAD FOUND THERE WERE THREE AND HALF RUMORS CURRENT IN ISRAEL ABOUT NASR'S WHEREABOUTS: A) IN JA'ABARI'S CLUTCHES, B) SPIRITED ACROSS LINE TO JORDAN, C) IN ISRAELI HANDS, AND D) INVOLVED WITH A WOMAN AND IN HIDING. DANI SAID HE COULD ASSURE US CATEGORICALLY ISRAELIS DID NOT KNOW WHERE HE WAS AND WERE DOING EVERYTHING WITHIN THEIR POWER TO FIND HIM. GOI IN FACT COULD NOT LOCATE HIM SOON ENOUGH: HIS DISAPPEARANCE WAS FEEDING ARAB PROPAGANDA MILLS ABOUT EVILS OF ISRAELI RULE OVER EAST JERUSALEM. DAFNI PROMISSED HE WOULD INFORM US INSTANTLY OF ANY PROGRESS IN SECARCH.

6. COMMENT: MRS AJLOUNY WAS IN OBVIOUSLY DISTRAUGHT FRAME OF MIND AND FEARFUL FOR HER BROTHER'S WELL-BEING. WE HAD BEEN TOLD BY MFA FEB 13 THAT GOI HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF CONFIDENTIAL

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NASR'S DISAPPEARANCE, THAT POLICE WERE ACTIVELY SEARCHING FOR HIM AND THAT GOI HOPED HE WOULD BE FOUND SOON IN ORDER TO CALM DOWN CONTROVERSY THAT HAD ARISEN AS A RESULT OF HIS DISAPPEARANCE. IN VIEW OF DAFNI'S LATEST REMARKS, WE ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE GOI SINCERELY WANTS TO FIND NASR.
KEATING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, PARAMILITARY FORCES, JOURNALISTS, POLICE FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TELAV00925
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740227/aaaaazqr.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: JERUSALEM 242 JERUSALEM A-06
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 AUG 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <12 DEC 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DIAPPEARANCE OF "EL FAJR" PUBLISHER
TAGS: PINS, JO, IS, (NASR, YOUSEF NASRI), (AJLOUNY, AFAF), (JA'ABARI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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